

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transaction supporting apparatus supporting making payment of a transaction comprising:

5 transaction-detail registering means for registering details of a transaction;

payment information notifying means for notifying a buyer of payment information;

10 payment confirming means for confirming whether payment of the transaction has been made to an account specified in the payment information by a deadline also specified in the payment information; and

15 charging means for charging for the transaction via a credit card when said payment confirming means confirms that the payment has not been made by the deadline.

2. The transaction supporting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for sending
20 to the buyer a reminder message which reminds the buyer of payment when the payment confirming means confirms that payment has not been made by the deadline,

said charging means charges for the transaction via the credit card when a given period described in the
25 reminder message has expired.

3. The transaction supporting apparatus

according to claim 1, further comprising means for remitting to the seller an amount obtained by subtracting a given service fee from an amount paid by the buyer.

5 4. The transaction supporting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for inputting card information necessary to charge for the transaction via the credit card,

10 said card information being information that a delivery service agent who delivers a product to the buyer directly obtains from the buyer at the time of a first transaction by the buyer.

15 5. The transaction supporting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for making a transfer into an account of the buyer,

20 said charging means charges for the transaction via the credit card if said payment confirming means confirms that said account of the buyer does not have a balance sufficient to the payment to be made by the buyer.

25 6. The transaction supporting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for requesting a home-delivery service agent to deliver a product purchased by the buyer and notifying the home-delivery service agent of information about the buyer, said information about the buyer including an address of a

delivery destination.

7. A method of supporting making payment of a transaction comprising the steps of:

5 registering details of a transaction;
 notifying a buyer of payment information;
 confirming whether payment of the transaction has
 been made to an account specified in the payment
 information by a deadline also specified in the payment
10 information; and

 charging for the transaction via a credit card
 when it is confirmed that the payment has not been made by
 the deadline.

15 8. A computer-readable recording medium
 storing a program that causes a computer to function as:

 transaction-detail registering means for
 registering details of a transaction;

 payment information notifying means for notifying
20 a buyer of payment information;

 payment confirming means for confirming whether
 payment of the transaction has been made to an account
 specified in the payment information by a deadline also
 specified in the payment information; and

25 charging means for charging for the transaction
 via a credit card when said payment confirming means
 confirms that the payment has not been made by the

deadline.